

POISON IN SUGAR A PIZZLE FOR POLICE.



Mrs. Margaret Wilkinson, Who Received the Sugar.

A case much like that of Mrs. Dunning and Mrs. Deane, killed by eating poisoned candy sent them by mail, is being investigated in Newark. Mrs. Wilkinson received a bag of sugar containing 4 per cent of arsenic. She accuses a former boarder of sending it in revenge.

Chief Hopper, of Newark, Doubts the Story Told by Mrs. Wilkinson, the Intended Victim.

THE case of Mrs. Margaret Wilkinson, of Newark, who found arsenic in a bag of sugar sent her, deepens in mystery. She declares that there was an attempt to kill her, and that a man whose attention she had rejected is responsible. Chief of Police Hopper questions her statement. He does not deny that poison was in the sugar. That fact Health Officer Chandler substantiates. But Hopper doesn't think the man named by Mrs. Wilkinson as her enemy is capable of so dastardly a crime.

Efforts are being made to find the boy who delivered the package at Mrs. Wilkinson's home, No. 592 Warren street, three days ago. When his identity is established the mystery will be solved.

The woman sticks to her accusation. Her daughter, Margaret, aged fourteen, bears out the mother's statement that the man accused—a well-known business man and a former boarder at the Wilkinson home—threatened to shoot or poison his landlady if she persisted in declining his offer of marriage.

"I heard him myself tell mamma he'd kill her," said the little girl yesterday.

Positive in Her Belief.

Mrs. Wilkinson said: "There is no other person in the world who would have sent me the poison. I have no enemies. I live quietly here and see few people outside my own household."

"This man boarded with me from June, 1897, till January, 1898."

"After he left he used to come to see me often, and made me offers of marriage. I told him that when I married I would do so to better myself. Lately I learned he had a wife living. I taxed him with that, and asked why he had proposed to marry me under the circumstances. He answered that he was divorced. I found out, though, that this was not true, and told him finally that I could have nothing more to do with him. It was then he made the threat to take my life."

"When these packages came I was first led to suspect something wrong by the color of the sugar as I poured it out. Then there was an odor about it, and finally I took it to the Board of Health, and they found it full of poison."

Could Not Identify Boy.

"I don't believe I could recognize the boy who left it here. The only thing I remember was that he was about twelve years old. No one took any particular notice of him. He just knocked and said the package was for me."

SHE SAYS CANDY TO MRS. BOTKIN.

Girl Clerk Identifies the Prisoner as Her Agitated Customer.

San Francisco, Sept. 9.—Chief of Police Lees now believes he has evidence enough to warrant the Governor in sending Mrs. Cordelia Botkin to Delaware. The chief's star witnesses are Miss Sylvia Henry and Miss Kitty Dittmer, employed in Haas's candy store here.

A woman entered the Haas store on Sunday, July 21, and requested Miss Henry to make up a box of chocolates. She wanted a pink box. She looked over samples and selected one. The woman asked Miss Henry to fill it with chocolate creams. The woman appeared agitated, and frequently asked the girl to hurry. The customer told the clerk not to pack the box full, as she desired to put in a present.

The order was given in such a hurried manner that Miss Henry became nervous and asked Miss Dittmer to hand her the ribbon paper, which is always placed upon the candies when the boxes are packed to their limit.

Miss Henry tied up the box of sweets and handed the package to the woman, who then hustled out of the store. The young woman watched her walk out, noticed the swing of her skirts, and when she saw Mrs. Botkin enter the city from Judge Cook's court room to the city prison she was convinced that Mrs. Botkin was the woman who had bought the candy from her that day in July.

Governor Bland has agreed to hear the

OFFICE-HOLDERS MILLIONAIRE COTTAGERS TURN FIREMEN AT A NEWPORT HOTEL BLAZE.

Advised Not to Attend the Democratic Convention at Syracuse.

MANY ARE ANXIOUS TO GO.

Richard Croker Thinks That Employees of the City Should Keep at Their Posts.

WILL BE A ROUSING DELEGATION.

Captain William Astor Chanler Tells of His Cuban Experiences at Tammany Hall Executive Committee Meeting.

MR. CROKER WANTS OFFICE HOLDERS TO KEEP AT WORK.

Let me suggest that only a reasonable number outside of the delegates go to the Syracuse convention from this organization. There is no sense in an unwieldy crowd journeying to Syracuse. A small number would be just as significant and satisfactory. I also want to say that members of the city administration generally who hold public office, unless they are delegates or alternates—officials upon whom the people depend for the transaction of their public business—ought to remain at their posts and at home. There will be enough to attend to convention matters without them—Richard Croker, in a statement to the Tammany Hall Executive Committee yesterday.

Richard Croker divided the honors with Captain William Astor Chanler at a gathering of the Tammany Hall Executive Committee yesterday. The Tammany chief scored a hit with some and disappointed others when he expressed his disapproval of city officials deserting their posts and attending the Democratic State Convention at Syracuse. Captain Chanler got a rousing reception. So much admiration was shown for him that Senator Timothy D. Sullivan hurried to the Grand Central Depot and waded through a sea of delegates to get to the Tammany headquarters.

Chief of Police Hopper is not inclined to be positive about the identity of the would-be poisoner. "We are going slow in this case," he said yesterday. "There is a great deal that is curious about it. In the first place the man Mrs. Wilkinson points to as a respectable citizen, well known and not the kind of man to attempt such a crime. Then it is very difficult to get a clue to the boy who is said to have delivered the package. And this, I think, she cannot describe him."

No Arrests Yet.

"If any one did deliver the poisoned sugar we will find him. I have no intention of making any arrests at present."

Chemist Baldwin, who analyzed the sugar turned over to him by Health Officer Chandler, says there was a 4 per cent of arsenic in the package. It contained two pounds of granulated sugar, and the proportion of poison was enough to kill a horse of average size. It is thought, was sent along to dispel any suspicion that might have been caused by the receipt of a sugar barrel.

Mrs. Wilkinson said at first she was induced to investigate the sugar by the color of it, as she poured it out of the paper. Yesterday she said it was the color that caught her attention.

Former Boarder Indignant.

The man who according to Mrs. Wilkinson sent the groceries is very indignant at her charges. He has lived in the Roseville section of Newark for thirty-five years and bears an excellent reputation among his neighbors. He says it is all "spite work." He boarded at the Wilkinson home and incurred her anger because of his objection to the way she ran the house and the fact that he left her to take a rooming house.

The case is similar to that of Mrs. Dunning and Mrs. Deane, of Dover, Del., who were killed by eating poisoned candy sent by mail. In that case it was found that the candy was sent by a man who had been a boarder at the Wilkinson home.

Just as the meeting ended, Captain Chanler appeared. He was very nervous and asked all sorts of questions as to his experiences in Cuba. When asked by Mr. Croker what he thought of the Republican nomination for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or any other place on the ticket, he looked rather inquiringly at Mr. Croker and said he would be entirely in the hands of his friends. Whatever may be done about my own case, I shall do all I can to aid in securing the nomination of Arthur Hays Sulzberger.

On General Wheeler's staff. So soon as I am mustered out I shall devote myself to campaigning work wherever the organization needs me.

Old Glory Went Up in Smoke.

The fire spread rapidly and soon the entire building was ablaze. The flames leaped to the top of the building, and the staff of which waved a large American flag, and Old Glory continued to wave until the roof caved in.

Shovels of sparks were carried all over town, and the utmost care had to be taken to prevent other buildings from being destroyed. The fire raged for several hours, but prompt work prevented the flames from doing any considerable damage.

Charles H. Bates, who has been here with a string of horses for the horse show, had an exciting time of it. He had rooms in the Berger, next door to the Ocean House, and was taking his afternoon nap when the fire started.

When he awoke his room was intensely hot, and it took him some time to take to the roof of the building. He finally gathered his traps together and made his escape through a window to the roof of the Casino, and thence to the barber shop and to terra firma.

The huge safe, which contained thousands of dollars in cash and other valuables belonging to the guests, is a charred and blackened mass of steel. It crashed through to the roof of the Casino, and the lower floor was burned out. It rests to-night in a smoldering furnace, and it has been deposited in it will be a total loss. An effort will be made to open the safe to-morrow.

The Ocean House was built in 1848 to replace one that burned down three years before. Distinguished persons from every corner of the globe have been entertained within its walls during the half century of its existence. General Grant during his two terms as President spent some time at the Ocean House. The name of President Arthur, too, appeared on several of the old registers which were destroyed by the fire.

The assessed valuation of the building was \$110,000, and the loss will be large. Since several of the insurance policies had been allowed to expire. The total insurance is not more than \$30,000. The property was owned by Henry J. Barker, of New York. It was his intention to tear down the building after the close of the season and replace it with a modern hotel.

Big Bargains in Men's Suits.

A special sale in four different styles at \$3.00 guaranteed all wool. King's, the great clothing store, will sell to-day new styles of men's suits at \$8.50, in neat plaid, the regular \$18.00. A very fine blue and black cheviot suit at \$8.50, worth \$14.00; worsted check suits, elegant effect, at \$7.49; regular \$15.00; black cloth cutaway at \$7.49; velvet suits, with lined, \$8.50; great \$14.00; boys' school suits at \$1.00; worsted bar gains in men's suits at \$1.00, worth \$2.50. At King's, the well known clothing store, Broadway and Park place. Open this evening until 9 o'clock.

Chauncey M. Depew, the Belmonts and the Vanderbilts Go to the Rescue.

One Brave Trooper Forced to Leap from a Window Forty Feet High.

HISTORIC OCEAN HOUSE IS GONE.

The Huge Safe, Which Contained Thousands of Dollars' Worth of Jewels and Other Valuables, Is a Charred Mass.

The historic hotel at Newport, R. I., that was destroyed by fire yesterday.

THE OCEAN HOUSE - NEWPORT

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QUIGG'S CAUCUS CALL FALLS FLAT.

Republican Leaders Refused to Enter the Trap Set for Delegates.

WILL FIGHT "GAG RULE."

Edward Lauterbach Has No Possible Use for the Man Selected by Quigg.

"I do not propose to take orders from Mr. Quigg as to whom I shall support for the gubernatorial nomination, though I may be willing to support the choice of Senator Platt. And he won't tell. There are others, and you may quote me as saying so."

The speaker was Charles A. Hess, Platt leader of the Twenty-fifth District, and brother of Police Commissioner Jacob Hess. He made the observations at the conclusion of a conference held with Edward Lauterbach, in which Quigg's Commissioner Jacob M. Patterson and Edmund J. Palmer, Abraham Gruber, Frank Bulkeley, State Inspector of Gas Matters James L. Stewart and other supporters of Governor Black's claims to a renomination were participants.

They are presumed to have been provoked by the discovery that a sneak call for a caucus of leaders had been issued in the name of Chairman Quigg, at which it was intended that they should pledge themselves and the delegates to Saratoga which they control to vote as a unit for the candidate that Quigg might favor.

The Black men learned early yesterday morning that only leaders whom Quigg was satisfied he could trust to obey orders had been invited to the caucus. It was to be held not in the regular state chamber at the Madison Square headquarters, but in the offices of National Committeeman Frederick S. Gibbs, on the floor below.

At the hour the caucus was supposed to have been in session in Gibbs's room, the anti-Quigg men were conferring in those of Mr. Lauterbach in the Cotton Exchange building, and resolving not to enter into any further relations with the caucus. Senator Platt had declared his choice for Governor.

Quigg Men Stayed Away.

Only Collector Bidwell, John Sabine Smith, John Stiebeling and Thomas L. Hamilton turned up at the Quigg gathering. Then it was announced by Secretary George H. Sanderson, of the County Committee, that there really had been no intention of holding a caucus; that one might as well meet in a cemetery, and that the Committee might as well meet in a cemetery. The Black men placed but one interpretation upon this, and that was that Quigg, disgraced over his own defeat, had turned down by President McKinley the day before, and fearful that he and his choice would be defeated in the caucus so long as Senator Platt remained in the word to his followers to wait a few days.

At the Cotton Exchange conference Mr. Lauterbach was free to state the purpose of his interview with Governor Black at Albany the day before. He told how the Governor had assured him that no inducement would be offered to any candidate for renomination to stand as a candidate for Quigg's caucus. He said that he had in consultation with Mr. Lauterbach and other delegates to Saratoga. These are far more than enough to prevent the enforcement of Quigg's proposed "gag rule" to vote the New York County delegates as a unit.

After the talk Mr. Lauterbach was asked the result of his visit to Governor Black. "It was a failure," he said, "and I am not going to do it. The man who gets a majority of the votes at Saratoga will be nominated. And he'll have to be it."

Mr. Lauterbach declined to add anything to this statement for publication.

Leaders Denounce Quigg.

Leader after leader in attendance who refused to be quoted, however, expressed the greatest contempt for the course Quigg has been pursuing since he declared his own revolt, and also for the studied refusal on the part of Senator Platt to commit himself.

"I have been to Senator Platt several times, and begged him to say whom I and my friends should support, and one of the best known leaders in the city to a County reporter. 'Each time he has told me to go and see Quigg. I refused to do so, and I have no more to say on the subject.'"

A half dozen other leaders bore similar testimony.

During the time which is to elapse before the caucus, next Wednesday, those who met Lauterbach yesterday will continue to work for Black and seek to ascertain at the same time whether Senator Platt is really for Roosevelt or whether he has General Stewart L. Woodford, General Francis V. Greene or some other man in mind for the gubernatorial nomination. Black was sprung in 1896.

Louis P. Ryan is expected here to-day to add to the movement to clear the atmosphere and smoke Platt out. Mr. Lauterbach denied that the Governor would formally open headquarters here, but Mr. Lauterbach can be found daily at his office in the Cotton Exchange building, with Ryan or his deputies can easily be reached.

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COLER'S VICTORY IS ABSOLUTE.

Court Holds He Was Right in Rejecting Conditional Bids.

INJUNCTIONS ARE REFUSED.

Vermilye & Co. Defeated in Their Effort to Get the Last Issue of City Bonds.

Justice Beckman and Coler, of the Supreme Court, have denied the motion of Vermilye & Co. for a mandamus to compel the Controller to accept their bid for the recent city bond issue of \$12,500,000, and award them the bonds, and have also denied the motion for an injunction, pending trial of their suit against the city, restraining the Controller from awarding the bonds to the Produce Exchange Trust Company or to any other persons. The motion of William A. Reid, a member of the Vermilye syndicate, for a similar injunction is also denied.

The bid of the Produce Exchange Trust Company for the whole issue was 104.94; the bid of Vermilye & Co. was 105.03, with the condition that the legality of the bond issue was to be passed upon by their private counsel before acceptance by them.

Comptroller Coler held that this condition rendered the bid void, and awarded the bonds to the Produce Exchange Trust Company. Vermilye & Co. applied for a mandamus compelling the Controller to award the bonds to them on the ground that their bid was the highest and would be worth \$14,400 more to the city than the bid of the Produce Exchange Trust Company.

They also applied to Justice Cohen for an injunction preventing the Controller from awarding the bonds to the Produce Exchange Trust Company or to any other person or company. William A. Reid, a member of the Vermilye syndicate, also applied to Justice Cohen for a similar injunction. The syndicate brought suit against the city also for an injunction of equivalent meaning.

Justice Cohen, in denying the motion for an injunction, points out that the Vermilye syndicate had thirteen days before the bonds were awarded to determine upon the legality of the issue, and that the condition in their bid renders it nugatory. He says that if the bonds had been awarded to them under their bid and because their private counsel had disapproved the validity of the issue they had demanded the return of their money, and the Controller had refused it, the courts would sustain them in a suit to recover it from the city.

Therefore the condition they imposed was a part of the bid, and the Controller had a right to regard it as so affecting it as to make the Produce Exchange Trust Company's bid the more advantageous to the city, in that it imposed no conditions.

Massachusetts' Turn to Dock.

The battle ship Massachusetts arrived at the Brooklyn Navy Yard yesterday afternoon